



مركز إجتماعي ثقافي
Socio-Cultural Center



ABJAD

A Safe Place for Big Impact .. in Tabbaneh

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Get to Know Abjad!

In the heart of Tabbaneh and on the demarcation line between Tabbaneh and Jabal Mohsen, ABJAD, the socio-cultural center was found, to be a safe place for all the residents.

ABJAD works under the mission of targeting women, youth, and children to improve their lives quality, through life skills, vocational training, and activities that engage them in cultural and prevention programs based on human security principles.

ABJAD center is known as the first communal center in Tabbaneh. The residents in the surrounding neighborhoods benefit from a variety of activities that are offered either by ABJAD's team or external experts and partners. It is a space and sanctuary for citizens seeking protection-related support and personal development. It is a nest that fosters activities that improve human security through personal and economic empowerment for both the host and refugee communities.

Thanks to the combined efforts between **UTOPIA Organization** from one side, the three **UN** agencies _ **UN-HABITAT**, **UNICEF**, and **UN Women**, and the **Municipality of Tripoli**, ABJAD was created in Tabbaneh. The launching event took place on **August 1st, 2018**.



Since then, more than **5,000 individuals** from all genders, ages, nationalities, and backgrounds from Tabbaneh and its surroundings have visited ABJAD and benefitted from the programs running in it.

ABJAD is the one of a kind socio-cultural center in Tabbaneh that combines in one place a variety of facilities including



Classes



Cinema



Theater



Referral Desk



Computer Lab



Case Management Room

NEEDS MATTER

Needs Matter



Tripoli is the central urban city of the North, inhabited by about 0.5 million, including 64K Syrian Refugees, and others (PRL and stateless). Almost half of the Tripolitans live below the poverty line.

Most of Tripoli neighborhoods are crowded, especially the vulnerable areas. The social tension between refugees and host communities exists widely in Tripoli, especially in a vulnerable area like Tabbaneh.

In a vulnerable context like the one in Tripoli, the need is varied and is greatly increasing on different levels.

Thusly, Abjad's first priority is to empower the individuals and addressing their most basic needs by offering them social and economic opportunities and capacity building, in the way to community development and growth.

02

EVERYONE IS WELCOMED

Everyone is Welcome

ABJAD, the welcoming, attractive, and functional space that thousands of community members and visitors from vulnerable neighborhoods, use each year, stimulate the social, economic, and cultural vitality of the area by the various programs and the multiplicity cooperation.

The center is all-inclusive; human beings from all backgrounds and creeds are welcome to benefit from, and use, the center facilities, including women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, non-Lebanese, domestic workers, and others.

Below is a brief figure about beneficiaries of ABJAD, since it is launched.



1528
MALES



3522
FEMALES



3597
SYRIAN
REFUGEES



1453
LEBANESE











3000

Every Activity is a Step Toward HUMAN SECURITY

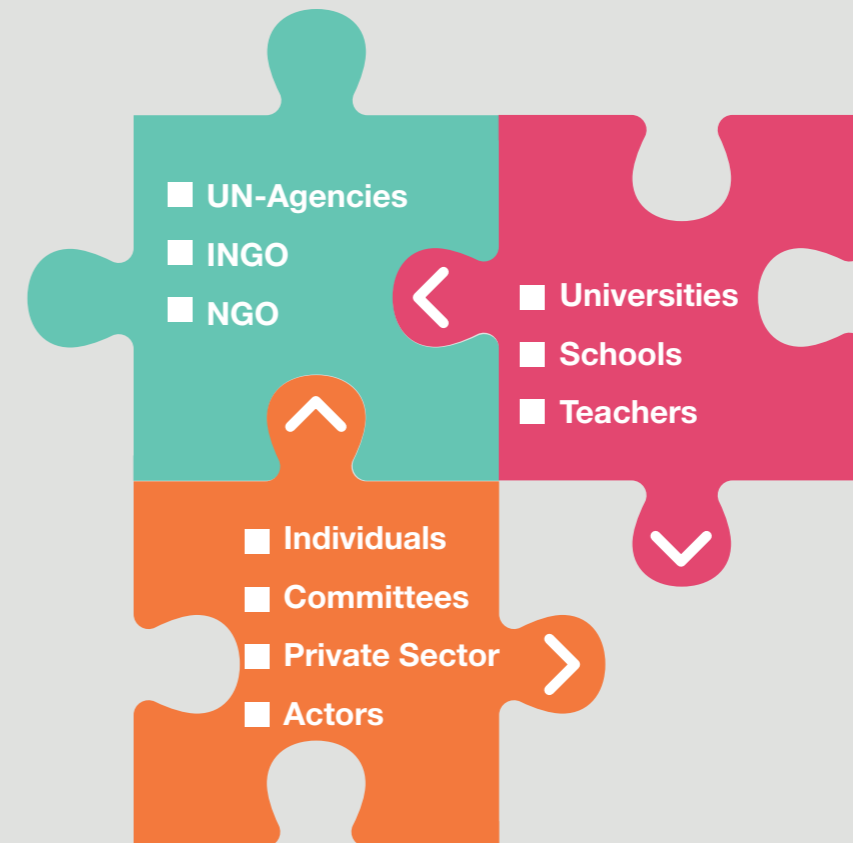
In ABJAD we believe that human security is a right for everyone. We place the security of individuals and communities at the heart of peacebuilding to face violence, coercion and deprivation. All activities in ABJAD focuses on improving the perception of safety, and the meaningful access to protection and development services available for the individuals, families and communities. Different activities in various domains, and with many causes are held in the center whether by the Utopia team or by other entities or individuals from the community.

Types of Activities

<p>EDUCATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING SOFT SKILLS LIFE SKILLS VOCATIONAL TRAININGS</p>		
<p>COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMUNITY SERVICE PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT, COUNSELLING PROTECTION</p>		
<p>THEATER CINEMA GATHERINGS SPORT EVALUATION ACTIVITIES</p>		
<p>CASH ASSISTANCE AWARENESS INFORMATION DISSEMINATION</p>		



Types of Partners



The Holistic Approach is the Way

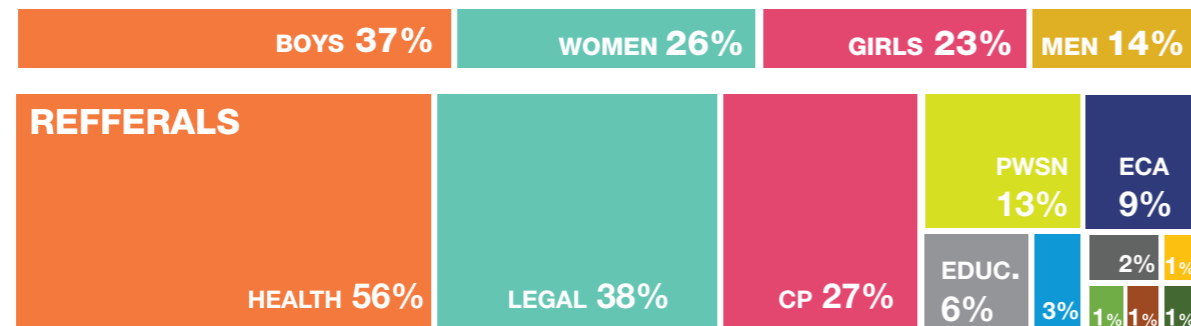


40%+ REFERRALS
WERE MARKED SUCCESSFULLY CLOSED

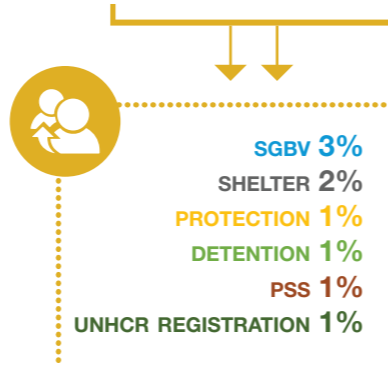
In ABJAD, we aim through our holistic approach to ensure integration of services, for a better benefit of women, men, youth, and children of the social opportunities that are available for them in their community. The protection desk in ABJAD center which is operating 5 days a week, receives beneficiaries from all backgrounds, and answer their questions regarding their needs and services. Through the protection desk, people receive a hearing ear for their thoughts and an answer for their concerns. They find a service mapping available for them to know more about the protection and other services available for them in their community. They also get the chance to benefit from the referral and the legal consultation services available for them on our protection desk.

Referrals: The protection desk in ABJAD Center receives community members requesting a specific service, **159 cases** were referred during 2019 to service providers, with **more than 40% of the referrals were marked successfully closed.**

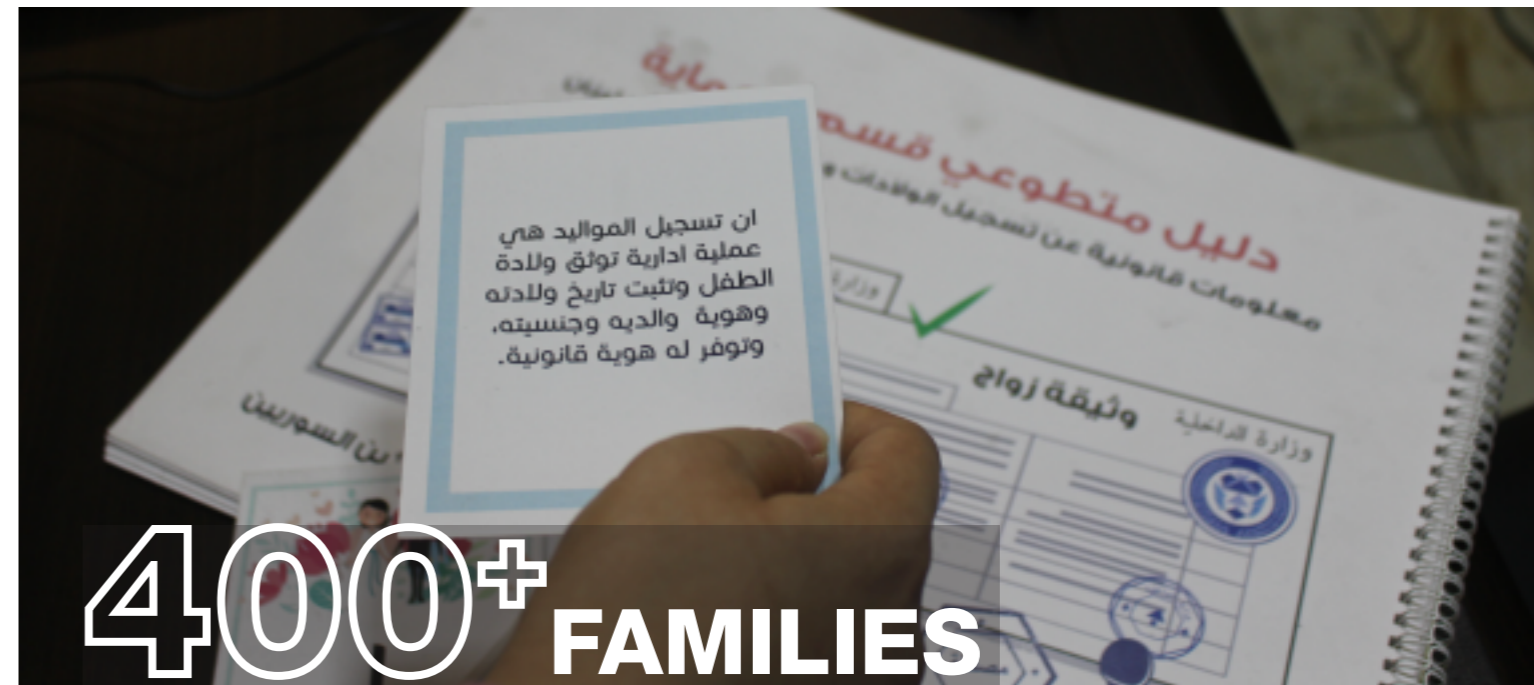
The beneficiaries of referrals are 23% girls, 37% boys, 26% women, and 14% men.



The main referrals are for the services of Health, Legal assistance (birth and marriage registration, ID confiscation), Child protection, in addition to many different sectors, as shown in the graph above.



Legal Consultations: In 2019, ABJAD the socio-cultural Center in Tabbaneh, fostered a legal protection unit, which helped more than 150 families in registering newborns and certifying new marriages. The main objective of this unit was to strengthen the protection status of Syrian refugees and the host community from Tripoli, especially children and women. While statelessness is a real protection issue in the unprivileged neighborhoods in Tripoli, such as Tabbaneh and surroundings, UTOPIA through the Legal Unit in ABJAD Center, helped in preventing statelessness by offering specialized protection and legal services to vulnerable families including legal counseling and legal representation, to certify marriages and register newborns. The factors that made a successful intervention out of the legal unit, are not only the specialized team but also the advantages of ABJAD center which allowed wide access to the service by offering a safe space for the legal unit, especially for women and children, in a central location reachable to the persons of concern from many neighborhoods in need. Eventually, 125 vulnerable families were assisted to register newborns to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs level, 30 families were assisted to obtain marriage certificates, 6 families were assisted in legal representation cases for statelessness, and more than 400 families were assisted with legal counseling on multiple topics in ABJAD center.



400+ FAMILIES

WERE ASSISTED WITH LEGAL COUNSELING ON MULTIPLE TOPICS IN ABJAD CENTER



125 FAMILIES WERE ASSISTED

TO REGISTER NEWBORNS TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS LEVEL



30 FAMILIES WERE ASSISTED

TO OBTAIN MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES



6 FAMILIES WERE ASSISTED

IN LEGAL REPRESENTATION CASES FOR STATELESSNESS

50

The Story of Yazan



Yazan's nightmares now are gone ...
He will be able to move on.

"I started to lose hope with the situation of my little one Yazan. He was not OK. He used to scream while sleeping because of his nightmares of the bombs and explosions. The war was too much for him to forget". That's how Mrs. "D" described her son's situation before one of her friends invited her to attend one of the awareness sessions in ABJAD. "I was hopelessly doing my best as a widowed mother to ease his fear" she added.

Mrs. "D" attended a session about how to access available services for refugees in Tripoli. Where she knew that there are indeed NGOs that are offering their services to support refugees, and that she can always access ABJAD to benefit from the valuable activities that are tailored to meet the needs of refugees generally, and women particularly.

"Not only my son got referred by ABJAD referrals desk to a mental health agency to support him, but also myself. After a year of support, Yazan's nightmares now are gone, and I am pretty sure that he will be able to move on" she said.

D.M 30 years old, Syrian, FHH

The Story of Huda

Huda is another example, In ABJAD center Huda got the opportunity to participate in a series of psycho-social support through ART sessions. She was one of a group of 13 ladies, coming from different backgrounds and nationalities.

It wasn't easy for her to accept this at the beginning, however, the workshops were very attractive and relevant, this is what she felt from the very first session, and what made her excited to continue all the sessions and workshops. According to Huda, these workshops made her experience new techniques of stress and tension release and made her feel like a little girl again. The most beautiful part of this was that she was exploring herself, as well as the participants, and they were interacting with each other as humans, regardless of all the differences between them.

"I made new friends. Every time I feel stressed out now, I go to meet them and have some good time together. We meet in ABJAD actually, too often. I even learned how to deal with my own stress. This helped a lot in improving my communication with my family. This changed my life."

Huda Akkary, 45 years old, Syrian

I even learned how to deal with my own stress...This changed my life.



ABJAD SHABAB

ABJAD Shabab - A Step Forward Toward Youth

In 2020, Utopia takes an advanced step on the road of youth development by launching ABJAD SHABAB. In the hope of providing the maximum benefit for all of its attendees from different nationalities, ages, and gender, ABJAD has recently exceeded the usual activities to include some recreational, sportive, artistic, cultural, and extra-curricular activities which will be held in the newly-opened section of the center, ABJAD SHABAB. Starting from its name, ABJAD SHABAB is an extra-curricular activities club that is a safe and public space for youth, aiming at creating social opportunities, reducing tension and stress, spreading culture, and promoting social cohesion and community building.



07

ABJAD FAMILY

Get to Know ABJAD Family



Utopia Organisation took the charge of running both ABJAD and ABJAD Shabab since day one.

UTOPIA team is volunteering to manage the center while they are doing their job in the organization and is always ready to lend a hand to all of the center's attendees.

Here are some of our people on board:

Shafik Abdulrahman
Jihan Takla
Rayan Abdallah
Hanin Ibrahim
Ghina Al Mohammad
Catherine Jabaly
Abdeljawad Ahmad
Habiba El Ghor

Haya Shaaban
Lina Khawly
Suha Allouche
Ahmad Ibrahim
Khaled Issa
Samira Bakkar
Khdor Harrouk

08

EFFORTS ARE SHARED

Efforts Are Shared



Abjad itself is a conclusion of collective efforts since it was funded by the **United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security** and implemented under the project “Respond to the sudden and urgent multi-dimensional humanitarian crisis in Tripoli through the human security approach”, by **UN-HABITAT, UN Women, and UNICEF**, in partnership with **Utopia, the Ministry of Social Affairs** and the **Municipality of Tripoli**.

All of ABJAD’s activities require collaboration amongst several stakeholders; from local and international NGOs, service providers, municipalities, businesses, and institutions to ensure sustainability and a high level of achievement and success.

Thusly, UTOPIA fosters strategic relationships with individuals, organizations, and communities to achieve the vision of the center.

Over the past 2 years, we've proudly reached **5,000 beneficiaries** in cooperation with our partners from different sectors and entities to achieve the ultimate goal of improving the quality of the life of the Tripolitan community on many scales.

09

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your Contribution Makes a Difference



ABJAD family and UTOPIA do value any type of contribution that comes along with the sustainability of the center. Since ABJAD is a welcoming space whose primary goal is to reach the highest level of benefit to the community, new ideas are always welcomed, by any potential donor, partner, executive entity, CSO or NGO, and also any community members, in case of working on valuable suggestions aligned to the values of the center and serve the community's various segments.

Your support can be simply by implementing your actions in ABJAD, or by pulling your fund to either improve the center or create new social opportunities in it.

Please do reach out to the crew to know more about how you can make use of, support, donate for, or fund ABJAD, the socio-cultural center in Tabbaneh.



Contact us

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UTOPIA

ACRONYMS

Acronyms

UNICEF: The United Nations Children's Fund

UN-HABITAT: The United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UN-Women: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

PRL: Palestinian refugee from Lebanon

INGO: International non-governmental organization

NGO: Non-governmental organization

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

ECA: Emergency cash assistance

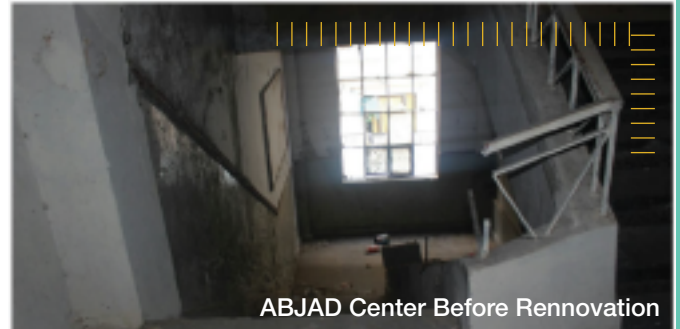
PWSN: Persons with specific needs

SGBV: Sexual and gender-based violence

PSS: Psycho-social support

CP: Child protection

CSO: Civil society organization



ABJAD Center Before Renovation



ABJAD Center After Renovation



ABJAD Center Before Renovation



ABJAD Center After Renovation



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  **UTOPIA Lebanon**

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